

need for increased services to crime victims in Connecticut, it is clear that removal of the cap is necessary to ensure that Connecticut will be able to meet the needs of crime victims."

The Victims of Crime Fairness Act of 2003 is common sense legislation. I ask my colleagues to join me in helping victims of crime by eliminating the VOCA fund spending cap.

PERMITTING USE OF ROTUNDA OF
CAPITOL FOR CEREMONY AS
PART OF COMMEMORATION OF
DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE OF VIC-
TIMS OF HOLOCAUST

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2003

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support of H. Con Res 40, to allow the use of the Capitol rotunda for a ceremony to commemorate victims of the Holocaust. Our Nation's capitol is a symbol of freedom and democracy to so many. This resolution gives us a forum to pay service to the victims of the Holocaust. I pray that such a tragedy should never touch the world again.

A Holocaust memorial is not something to be taken lightly, or to be rushed without its due respect. The Holocaust is a product of authoritarian government and evil intentions, and we must continue to study and remember it, lest it be repeated. Hate, genocide, racial supremacism still occur in parts of the world and I believe that we as Americans can still focus our efforts on stopping them before they grow to an uncontrollable magnitude.

My heart goes out to the victims and survivors of Adolf Hitler's death camps. Every time I reexamine the Holocaust, and pay tribute to what happened, I am still shocked and pained by the organized, methodical killing that went on in Europe.

For the 12 million people that Nazi Germany exterminated, we must remember. For each of the six million Jews killed, we must respond. For the Gypsies, the gays, the political dissenters and any of the righteous people who spoke out against what they thought was evil—for this we commemorate and remember the Holocaust. It can never happen again.

RECOGNITION OF WILLIAM
BARRET SIMS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize William Barret Sims, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 314, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

William has been very active with his troop, earning the ranks of bobcat, wolf, bear, and webelos as well as participating in summer camp at H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation and earning the status of warrior in the tribe of

Mic-O-Say. During the ten years he has been involved in scouting, he has earned 35 merit badges and is Brotherhood Member of The Order of the Arrow. William also has been honored for his numerous scouting achievements, earning the bear claw award, the God & Me award, the arrow of light award, and the god and church award. William has also served in many leadership capacities, including patrol leader, assistant patrol leader and assistant senior patrol leader.

For his Eagle Scout project, William planned, designed, and with the help of fellow scouts, built an outdoor storage shed for a habitat for humanity home located in Kansas City north, providing much needed storage space for the lawn and outdoor equipment of the homeowners.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending William Barret Sims for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PATIENT
NAVIGATOR, OUTREACH, AND
CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION
ACT OF 2003

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 2003

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I'm pleased to be joined by my Colleague from Ohio, DEBORAH PRYCE, to introduce the Patient Navigator, Outreach, and Chronic Disease Prevention Act of 2003.

The existence of significant health disparities in this nation is undeniable. For years, research has told us that minorities and low-income populations are the least likely to receive the health care they need to live a long, healthy life. We've done a very good job of identifying this problem—it's high time we do something to solve it.

That's why I'm very excited about the bill we are introducing today and the strong support we've already received for it. The bill is supported by the American Cancer Society, the National Association of Community Health Centers, the National Alliance for Hispanic Health, the National Hispanic Medical Association, the Intercultural Cancer Council and their Caucus, the National Council of La Raza, 100 Black Men of America, the National Rural Health Association, Dean and Betty Gallo Prostate Cancer Center, MHz Networks, Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum, Dia de la Mujer Latina, Inc., the Cancer Research and Prevention Foundation, and the National Patient Advocate Foundation.

This bill addresses what I believe are the root causes of health disparities in minority and underserved communities: lack of access to health care in general—and particularly lack of access to prevention and early detection—as well as language and cultural barriers to care.

The bottom line is: the only way to stay healthy is to see a doctor when you are healthy. Yes, there are a number of explanations for the higher rates of disease among minority populations, including higher rates of uninsured, reduced access to care, and lower quality of care. But all of these barriers point

to the same underlying problem, minority patients are less likely to receive early screening and detection, so their disease is found at a much later stage and they have less chance of survival.

The bill we're introducing today will ensure that all Americans, regardless of race, ethnicity, language, income, or geography, will have access to prevention screening and treatment, and that they will have an advocate at their side, helping them navigate through today's complicated health care system.

It does this by building upon the existing infrastructure of the Consolidated Health Center program, the Indian Health Service, the Office of Rural Health Policy, and the National Cancer Institute.

It creates model programs to ensure that people are educated about the importance of prevention screening and early detection. A key component of the proposal is year-round outreach to the target community, in a language that they can understand.

It funds culturally and linguistically competent providers that reach out into the community, build their trust, build relationships, and educate the public, while providing prevention screenings and follow-up treatment.

And it ensures that navigators are available to help patients make their way through the health care system—whether it's translating technical medical terminology, making sense of their insurance, making appointments for referral screenings, following-up to make sure the patient keeps that appointment, or even accompanying a patient to a referral appointment.

The original concept for the legislation comes from Dr. Freeman's "navigator" program, which he created while he was Director of Surgery at Harlem Hospital. Recently, I was fortunate to get to visit Dr. Huerta's local Cancer Preventorium, which replicates Dr. Freeman's navigator concept within a comprehensive model of prevention services. This bill will translate the work of Dr. Harold Freeman and Dr. Elmer Huerta into a legislative model for cancer and chronic disease prevention and treatment for minorities and underserved communities.

The track record of these programs speaks for itself. It's very clear that these are not new ideas or new concepts, they're models that have been proven to work. And it's time that we take what's worked and use it to benefit underserved populations across the country. That's exactly what this legislation will do.

HONORING MR. VICTOR MANUEL
ARRAÑAGA

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 2003

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of Mr. Victor Manuel Arrañaga and his contributions to his family and community. Mr. Arrañaga was a man who worked hard all his life to better the lives of those around him. He was also a man who instilled important values in his family and practiced those values everyday towards those around him. He died on December 30, 2002.

Mr. Arrañaga grew up in Del Rio, Texas, where he operated the Arrañaga and Sons

grocery store with his father, brothers, and sisters. He was known for extending credit with no questions asked and for offering free groceries to those who could not afford to purchase them. In 1967, Mr. Arrañaga moved to San José, California, and began work at Food Villa in Santa Clara. As a dedicated employee for 20 years, he built a reputation for extraordinary customer service and was admired for his sense of humor. Mr. Arrañaga was also a member of the Retail Clerks Local 428 Union.

Mr. Arrañaga was active in the community both in Del Rio and San José. Elected to the Del Rio City Council in 1958, he was the second Latino in the town's history to hold the office. As a city councilman, Mr. Arrañaga formed a partnership with the neighboring border town of Ciudad Acuña, Mexico, in order to strengthen the relationships between the United States and Mexico. While performing his civic duties, he developed the city's first fire station and created high-quality low-income housing in the disadvantaged Del Rio neighborhood of San Felipe. The development's first street was named "Arrañaga Avenue" to recognize his dedicated efforts to the city and the project. Mr. Arrañaga was also an active member of the Lions Club in Del Rio, where he was the first Latino to serve as President and Zone Chairman. He was also a member of the club's recruitment committee. While in San José, he was an active member of the Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church in Alviso, California.

A devoted family man, Victor was married to his wife, Ina, for 54 years. Together they raised seven children, eighteen grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren. Mr. Arrañaga encouraged his children to pursue higher education and to be active in their communities. He also imparted and practiced his core principles of love, honor, and respect for family to all of those around him.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in remembering and honoring Mr. Victor Manuel Arrañaga for his service to his community and his dedication to his family. He was a man of great integrity and an inspiration to all of us.

CONGRATULATING NORAH JONES ON HER GRAMMY AWARDS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 2003

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to share my admiration with you for one of my district's most popular artists, Norah Jones.

During the 45th annual Grammy Awards held on February 24, 2003, Norah Jones was awarded 5 Golden Gramophone statuettes for Album of the Year, Best New Artist, Record of the Year for the single "Don't Know Why," Best Pop Vocal Album, and Best Female Pop Vocal Album.

Norah Jones has shown a strong aptitude for music since childhood. Ms. Jones graduated from the Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts of Dallas, Texas in 1997.

Norah Jones follows in the footsteps of the many successful Booker T. Washington High School alumni, such as Erykah Badu and Roy Hargrove.

Norah Jones later went on to the University of North Texas to major in jazz piano. Already career-minded, she knew that a solid foundation of jazz piano could pave the way for better things.

Mr. Speaker, Norah Jones is an inspiration to our youth, not only in Texas but across the nation, that their dreams can come true, and that they should reach for the stars.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HOMETOWN HEROES SURVIVOR BENEFITS ACT

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 2003

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our nation's public safety officers for their commitment to our communities and service to our nation. I am re-introducing my bipartisan legislation, the Hometown Heroes Survivor Benefits Act, and I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this important initiative.

Every day, public safety officers protect our families and possessions from fire, keep our streets safe, and are the first to respond to an emergency. Across this nation, our law enforcement officers and corrections officers, firefighters, and emergency medical service workers are dedicated and prepared, and when we call on them, they risk their lives for us.

Heart attacks and strokes are one of the greatest threats to public safety officers, especially firefighters. In fact, almost half of all firefighter deaths are due to heart attacks and strokes. Fighting fires is dangerous, exhausting, and extremely stressful work. Indeed, a firefighter's chances of suffering a heart attack or stroke greatly increases when he or she puts on their turnout gear and rushes into a building to fight a fire. Likewise, law enforcement and corrections officers and EMS workers face daily situations that put stress and strain on the heart.

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, last year 102 firefighters died while on duty, affecting 86 communities in 35 states. In the wake of their tragic losses, many of the families of these brave first responders received financial assistance from the Public Safety Officer Death Benefit, which was created by Congress over 25 years ago to provide these families with help in their time of need. However, some of these families are denied these benefits because of a glitch in the law.

During the last Congress, I introduced the Hometown Heroes Survivors Benefits Act to correct this technicality in the Public Safety Officer Benefit. This bipartisan legislation will allow the families of public safety officers who have died from a heart attack or stroke while on duty, or within 24-hours after participating in a training exercise or responding to an emergency situation, to receive this benefit.

Last year, 113 of our colleagues cosponsored this bill, and the House unanimously passed it. Unfortunately, we were not able to move the bill through the U.S. Senate before adjournment, despite the strong support of several Senators from both parties.

Today I, along with Representatives STENY HOYER, CURT WELDON, MIKE OXLEY, and 40

other members of this House, are re-introducing the Hometown Heroes Survivor Benefits Act. During this time of increased awareness and concern regarding the threat of terrorism, we are calling on our public safety officers to work longer and harder than ever before. This legislation shows our public safety officers and their families that we recognize their selfless contributions to protecting us and our communities, and that we stand with them.

We urge every Member in this House to join our bipartisan coalition by cosponsoring this critical legislation and working with us to pass it into law.

COMMENDING DR. KOICHI NISHIMURA

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 2003

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of Dr. Koichi Nishimura and his contributions to the Bay Area and Japanese-American communities. Dr. Nishimura will soon retire from Soletron Corporation after leading the company to its current standing as one of the world's largest electronics manufacturing services company. He has accomplished this through years of hard work and dedication to his friends, neighbors, and colleagues.

Born in 1938 in Pasadena, California, Dr. Nishimura is a Nisei, or second-generation Japanese American. Like many of his fellow Nisei, he has experienced strong Western and Eastern influences. During World War II, Dr. Nishimura spent five years, from age three to seven, at an internment camp in Manzanar. Despite spending his childhood in Southern California, he spoke only Japanese until the first grade.

After earning his bachelor's and master's degrees in electrical engineering from San Jose State University, Dr. Nishimura received his Doctorate in Material Science and Engineering from Stanford University. Upon completion of his education, Dr. Nishimura began his career as a test engineer with IBM. After 23 years with IBM, he was asked to join the then-regional Soletron Corporation. Coming on as the Chief Operating Officer in 1988, he quickly moved to President and then Chief Executive Officer. In 1996, he became Chairman of the Board. Dr. Nishimura has made Soletron Corporation not only the biggest company in the electronics industry, but also the most profitable. Under his leadership, Soletron was twice awarded the prestigious Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, becoming the first company in the history of the program to do so.

Dr. Nishimura is very active in both the business and Japanese American communities. Currently, he serves on the Board of Trustees of the Santa Fe Institute. In addition to serving on various boards, he has been a member and the Chairman of Santa Clara University's Leavey School of Business. Dr. Nishimura has dedicated his time and energy to the Malcolm Baldrige Foundation, serving as Vice President, as well as the Tech Museum of Innovation in San Jose, California, having served as a board member. In recognition of his work in the community, he was awarded the Silicon